



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2007

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District of Arizona*

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FORMER POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR STEALING SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS

PHOENIX – Minnie Nez, 52, of Pinon, Ariz., was sentenced here on April 9 to six months imprisonment by U.S. District Judge Earl H. Carroll. Nez had pleaded guilty to Theft of Mail Matter by a Postal Service Employee on July 27, 2006.

Between December 2001 and February 2005, Nez stole approximately 42 social security checks while sorting mail into post office boxes at the Pinon Post Office in northern Arizona. Nez endorsed the checks in the names of the beneficiaries, cashed the checks at the Navajo Shopping Center in Gallup, New Mexico, and converted the money to her own use. As a result of the theft, the Social Security Administration had to reissue the checks to the beneficiaries, and as part of the sentence Nez is required to pay restitution in the amount of \$21,739.36 to reimburse the Social Security Administration for the value of the stolen checks.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Office of Inspector General of the Social Security Administration. The prosecution was handled by Gary M. Restaino, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-235-PCT-EHC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-103(Nez)

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